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## Arizona's K-12 Academic Standards

### **Request:**

The Arizona Department of Education (the Department) requests \$1,099,000 annually, budgeted in the baseline beginning in FY18, to support the Department's continuous improvement of Arizona's K-12 Academic Standards and the Department's additional responsibilities as directed by Governor Ducey and the State Board of Education (SBE).

### **Background:**

There are multiple Arizona Revised Statutes that address academic standards. A.R.S. §15-701 directs local education agencies (LEAs) to incorporate the academic standards adopted by the SBE to be taught in the common schools. Additionally, the statute prescribes competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from the eighth grade and competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from the third grade incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. A.R.S. §15-701.01 prescribes competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. Additionally, A.R.S. §15-703 directs each school district that establishes a kindergarten program to provide academically meaningful instruction in each of the academic standards adopted by the SBE.

During the 2015 legislative session, the Arizona Legislature, Governor, and Superintendent of Public Instruction clearly expressed their intent to have a process for the revision, implementation, and review of Arizona's academic standards. The process continues to be a collaborative effort of statewide stakeholders including parents, educators, business partners, and higher education. In order to accomplish this task of continuous improvement of the standards, the Department requires the support of highly qualified personnel in all areas of instruction as well as necessary resources.

Governor Ducey requested that the SBE make necessary changes to the standards to ensure that they are vetted, approved and controlled by Arizona, and that the standards are the best for Arizona's students. Therefore, the SBE created a seventeen member Arizona Standards Development Committee, in which the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to provide staff to support this effort. FY16 monies were expended on this committee's work which required approximately 75% of the time of two directors, 60% of the K-12 Academic Standards Deputy Associate Superintendent's time, and 40% of the Associate Superintendent's time. Once official review began, an additional 50% of the time of four education specialists was needed. The Department estimated that about half of the work was completed in FY16 and that the remainder of the standards work will be completed in FY 17; however, following the implementation of the new standards, Department staff will transition to providing technical support and professional development. In FY17, the Department will continue its ongoing revision, implementation, and review processes of Arizona's academic standards while also working diligently to fulfill the requests from Governor Ducey and the SBE.

### **Justification:**

In order for our state to maintain high-quality academic standards in all content areas, the Department needs expert personnel in these contents. At a minimum, these content areas include: English Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, science, STEM, world and native languages, health, physical education, and educational technology. Through this full complement of content areas, Arizona will ensure that our students are receiving equitable access to a high quality education no matter where they live within the State.



Breakdown of FTE support needed after available funds are taken into account:

1. English Language Arts:	1.5 FTE
2. Mathematics:	2.5 FTE
3. Science:	1.5 FTE
4. Social Studies:	1.5 FTE
5. STEM:	1 FTE
6. World and Native Languages:	.5 FTE
7. Educational Technology:	1 FTE
8. Health and Physical Education:	1 FTE
9. <b>Total state support needed:</b>	<b>10.5 FTE</b>

For all content areas, the State would realize the following deliverables through the support of this unit at the Department:

1. Continuous and ongoing updates of academic standards in all content areas.
2. Expert professional development in all content areas.
3. Expert technical assistance in the form of guidance documents for educators and community.

Should these areas not be funded, then the following will occur:

1. All Arizona academic standards will stay as they currently exist. No updates to standards will occur even in the face of changes to requirements and/or educational research.
2. No state-wide, consistent approach to professional development related to academic standards. Each district will have to provide its own interpretation of the academic standards and its own professional development for teachers.
3. No guidance documents will be created to assist with communication of standards to educators and community.
4. Only minimal support for English Language Arts, mathematics and science assessment related to alignment to standards.

The requested funds are essential to ensure the Department has the financial resources and highly qualified staff to continue to execute statutory mandates to revise, implement, and review Arizona's academic standards, beginning with English Language Arts and Mathematics and Social Studies. The ability of the Department to retain the high quality teams of content-area experts that provide statewide professional development and technical assistance to LEAs, schools and communities needing guidance and support is essential to the success of implementing Arizona's standards. Without this funding, many of the struggling communities and the students most in need will not get the critical support that will enable them to achieve competency in meeting Arizona's standards and help the Department achieve our State's educational and economic objectives.

Moreover, these funds will enable the Department to strategically re-evaluate current academic standards, kindergarten through high school. The Department will use these funds to continue providing support for the high-quality instruction and implementation of state board adopted academic standards both in high needs metropolitan areas and in rural areas and Native American lands.



This is Arizona's opportunity to retain full control and responsibility for the processes of adopting and implementing high standards that are vetted with full transparency by Arizona stakeholders.

### **Operations Cost**

FTEs	10.5 FTE
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 705,000
ERE	\$ 241,000
PROFESSIONAL & OUTSIDE SERVICES	\$ 28,000
TRAVEL	\$ 25,000
OPERATING	\$ 100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,099,000</b>